

POSC346/446: WOMEN AND POLITICS

Karen Beckwith, Professor

Fall Semester 2014
TTh 2:45-4:00pm
Thwing 302

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 1-2:00pm, Wednesday 2-3:30pm, or by appointment

COURSE OUTLINE AND REQUIREMENTS

POSC346/446 Women and Politics involves a critical examination of the impact of gender on the forms and distributions of power and politics, and focuses on women's access to political representation and to equal political and economic rights, in international, comparative perspective. The course is particularly interested in how constitutions, political system structures, and election law shape gendered opportunities for men and women – of special interest in the context of new constitutional developments, such as the crowd-sourcing and social media aspects of the new Icelandic Constitution and the recently concluded Constitutional Convention in the Republic of Ireland. Major concerns of the course include what we mean by “sex,” “gender,” and “politics;” the relationship between women and the state; how women organize collectively to influence state policies; and how the state facilitates and constrains women's access to and exercise of political power.

The course is organized around several issues central to the study of women and politics. The first section of the course concerns what we mean by “sex,” “gender,” and “politics,” providing a critical examination of these concepts and developing tools for assessing women's and men's relationship to politics and to the state.

The second section of the course concerns political representation: what constitutes gendered interests, where organized women dispute shared issue positions (on, e.g., reproductive rights, social welfare policies, employment), which women are being represented, and how interests and issues are represented by political parties and enacted (or not) into law. This section of the course will be enhanced by an international conference on *Women, Gender and Conservative Parties in the 21st Century* (October 9-10). Political scientists doing research on women's representation within conservative and right-of-center political parties in Britain, Germany, the US and elsewhere will present their current work, with commentary and discussion following paper presentations. Among issues of discussion will be similarities and differences in policy perspectives of conservative political parties in North America and West Europe, and in women's declining political representation as national legislators and cabinet secretaries in those parties.

The third section of the course focuses on gender and political institutions. In this section, we will consider how political institutions, in their construction, may facilitate (or constrain) women's access to political representation and power, with specific attention to constitutional arrangements and the gendered impact of facially neutral institutions, to deepen our understanding of the workings of

governments and political systems, and of women's political empowerment.

In the final section, we conclude the course by considering women and politics in global comparative perspective, examining those general factors that might provide for increased gender equality and improved life status for women.

Evaluation of undergraduate student performance in this course is based on the following criteria. First, each student is expected to attend class and to be prepared for each class meeting by having read, in advance, the materials assigned for that day. Students should be prepared to discuss the material in detail in class every day, and all students are expected to participate. Students are expected, and obliged, to comport themselves, in class, in a professional manner. Professionalism refers to adherence to standards of behavior and performance expected from political scientists. This includes, but is not limited to, courteous behavior in class; attention to other speakers; engagement with the work at hand; and, of course, adherence to university standards of academic integrity. Informed class participation and professionalism are requirements of the course, and account for 10 percent of the final course grade.

Second, each students will facilitate an in-class discussions of course readings. The specific dates and readings will be assigned by the professor. Each discussion facilitation is worth 10 percent of the final grade.

Third, students will participate in the conference on *Women, Gender and Conservative Parties in the 21st Century* (October 8-10), and will write a short summary paper, evaluating the conference and assessing conservative political parties' representation of women. Details of this assignment are provided in a separate handout. Participation in the conference accounts for 10 percent of the final grade.

Fourth, students will complete two short research papers, each of which accounts for 20 percent of the final grade. Finally, each student will complete a final paper. The final paper assignment includes the written completed paper itself, which accounts for 25 percent of the final grade, and an in-class presentation of the paper's findings, which accounts for remaining 5 percent of the course grade. Details of these assignments will be available in separate course handouts. Due dates for assignments are indicated in the reading schedule, below.

Evaluation of graduate student performance includes the following: 1) meeting standards of professionalism and academic integrity; 2) participation in class discussions; 3) facilitating discussion for one class session (10 percent of the final course grade); 4) developing an annotated bibliography (30 percent of the final course grade); and 5) producing a research paper (60 percent of the final course grade). Beyond reading all undergraduate course assignments, graduate students will read additional work, the list for which will be developed in consultation with the professor.

Books required for this course are listed below and are available for purchase in the University Bookstore:

Ronald Inglehart and Pippa Norris, *Rising Tide: Gender Equality and Cultural Change Around the World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. (Used copies of this book may be purchased.)

Helen Irving, *Gender and the Constitution*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Mona Lena Krook, *Quotas for Women in Politics: Gender and Candidate Selection Reform Worldwide*, Oxford University Press, 2009.

Eileen McDonagh, *The Motherless State*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009. (Used copies of this book may be purchased.)

Michele L. Swers, *Women in the Club: Gender and Policy Making in the Senate*, University of Chicago Press, 2013.

Additional readings are available through electronic journals (e-journals), through the Kelvin Smith Library website, or on the course website at <http://politicalscience.case.edu/faculty-listings/professor-beckwith-political-science-courses/>. Each student should print a hardcopy of every additional assigned reading for his or her own research purposes. Please note that this is a requirement of the course.

Students are encouraged to read the *Financial Times* daily; it is available online through Kelvin Smith Library.

Standards of academic integrity are an integral component of this course. Students are reminded that they are obliged to understand, to uphold, and to comply with the Academic Integrity Policy of the University. A copy of the Code may be found online at <http://www.case.edu/provost/ugstudies/acintegrity.htm>. Students who do not understand this Policy after having read it should make an appointment to see me to discuss it; indeed, I welcome this discussion and encourage students to see me in advance of any assignment about which they have doubts or questions. It is a course requirement that students read the University's Academic Integrity Policy.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

August 26 **Introduction to the Course**

August 28 **Women, Gender, and Politics**

READ: Kathryn Henne, "The 'Science' of Fair Play in Sport: Gender and the Politics of Testing," *Signs* 39 (3), Spring 2014: 787-812 (available through e-journals).

CLASS CANCELED; professor will be attending the American Political Science Association meetings.

September 2 READ: Beckwith, "A Common Language of Gender?" *Politics & Gender*, 1 (1), March 2005: 128-137; Lovenduski, "Gendering Research in Political Science," *Annual Review of Political Science*, 1, 1998: 333-56 (both available through e-journals).

RECOMMENDED: Ritter, "Gender as a Category of Analysis in American Political Development," in *Political Women and American Democracy*, eds. Christina Wolbrecht, Karen Beckwith, and Lisa Baldez. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008. Pp. 12-30.

September 4 **Women's Liberation and Second-Wave Feminism in the US**

READ: Barbara J. Nelson and Kathryn A. Carver, "Many Voices but Few Vehicles: The Consequences for Women of Weak Political Infrastructure in the United States." In *Women and Politics Worldwide*, eds. Barbara J. Nelson and Najma Chowdhury. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994. Pp. 737-757.

September 9 READ: Myra Marx Ferree and Carol McClurg Mueller, "Feminism and the Women's Movement: A Global Perspective," in *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, eds. David A. Snow, Sarah A. Soule, and Hanspeter Kriesi. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2004. Pp. 576-607; and Verta Taylor, "The Continuity of the American Women's Movement: An Elite-Sustained Stage," in *Women and Social Protest*, eds. Guida West and Rhoda Lois Blumberg. New York and Oxford: Oxford, 1990. Pp. 276-301.

"An Evening with Gloria Steinem," Talk of the Town lecture at Severance Hall, 5:00pm, September 9, 2014

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B1oy20H6LVq1d25LV256ak85NFR4bTFGc0J1Wm1OOVZJNkpR/edit?pli=1>

September 11 DISCUSSION

September 16 **Women and Political Representation**

READ: Beckwith, "Plotting the Path from One to the Other: Women's Interests and Political Representation," in *Representation: The Case of Women's Interests*, eds. Michelle Taylor-Robinson and Maria Escobar-Lemmon. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014. Pp. 19-40.

September 18 READ: Jane Mansbridge, "Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent 'Yes'," *Journal of Politics*, 1999, 61 (3): 628-657; Suzanna Dovi, "Preferable Descriptive Representatives: Will Just Any Woman, Black, or

Latino Do?" *American Political Science Review*, 96 (4), December 2002: 729-743
(both available through e-journals).

September 23 **Women, Gender and Elections**

READ: Barbara Palmer and Dennis M. Simon, "When Women Run against Women," *Politics & Gender*, 1 (1), March 2005: 39-63; and Richard L. Fox and Zoe M. Oxley, "Does Running with a Woman Help?," *Politics & Gender*, 1 (4), December 2005: 525-546 (both available through e-journals).

September 25 READ: Kim L. Fridkin and Patrick J. Kenney, "The Role of Gender Stereotypes in US Senate Campaigns," *Politics & Gender*, 5 (3), September 2009: 301-320; Dennis M. Simon and Barbara Palmer, "The Roll Call Behavior of Men and Women in the US House of Representatives," *Politics & Gender*, 6 (2), June 2010: 225-246; and Danny Hayes, "When Gender and Party Collide: Stereotyping in Candidate Trait Attribution," *Politics & Gender*, 7 (2), June 2011: 133-165; (all available through e-journals).

September 30 READ: Michele L. Swers, *Women in the Club*, Chapters 1 and 2

October 2 READ: Michele L. Swers, *Women in the Club*, Chapters 3 and 4

October 7 READ: Michele L. Swers, *Women in the Club*, Chapters 5 and 6

October 8 Professor Sarah Childs Lecture 4:30pm

FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE IN MY OFFICE BY 3:00PM

October 9 Conference on *Women, Gender, and Conservative Parties in the 21st Century*

READ: Beckwith, "Women, Gender, and Conservative Parties in the 21st Century"

October 14 **Gender and Political Institutions: Making a Constitution**

READ: Irving, *Gender and the Constitution*, Introduction and Chapters 1-3

October 16 READ: Irving, *Gender and the Constitution*, Chapters 4-5

October 17 SHORT SUMMARY PAPER DUE IN MY OFFICE BY NOON

October 21 READ: Irving, *Gender and the Constitution*, Chapters 6, 7, and 8

October 23 READ: Irving, *Gender and the Constitution*, Chapters 9-10

October 28 FALL BREAK

October 30 **Gender and Political Institutions: Building Women’s Representation**

READ: Krook, *Quotas for Women in Politics* Chapters 1-3

November 4 READ: Krook, *Quotas for Women in Politics* Chapters 4 and 5

ELECTION DAY

November 6 **Gender and Political Institutions: Making a Political System**

READ: McDonagh, *The Motherless State*, Chapters 1 and 2

November 11 READ: McDonagh, *The Motherless State*, Chapters 3 and 4

November 13 READ: McDonagh, *The Motherless State*, Chapters 5, 6 and 7

November 14 SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE IN MY OFFICE BY NOON

November 18 **Building a State for Women: Women, Gender and Politics in Comparative Perspective**

READ: Inglehart and Norris, *Rising Tide*, “Part I: The Causes of the Rising Tide” (Chapters 1, 2, and 3)

November 20 READ: Inglehart and Norris, *Rising Tide*, “Part II: The Consequences of the Rising Tide” (Chapters 4, 5, and 6)

November 25 READ: Inglehart and Norris, *Rising Tide*, “Conclusions” (Chapter 7)

November 27 THANKSGIVING BREAK

December 2 IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS

December 4 IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS

FINAL PAPER DUE IN MY OFFICE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, BY 3:30PM